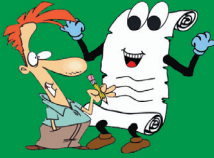


# How a Bill Becomes Law

## Bill Preparation

Bills are usually prepared by the Legislative Council for introduction by a legislator. If a bill is not prepared by the Legislative Council, the bill must be reviewed by the Legislative Council office for proper form and style.



## Bill Introduction

After the preliminary business of opening a session, the presiding officer (the Lieutenant Governor in the Senate and the Speaker in the House) calls for an introduction of bills. Any legislator may hand the bill to the bill clerk.



## Bill Number Assignment

The bill clerk assigns a number to the bill and the Chief Clerk of the House or the Secretary of the Senate reads the bill by title only (first reading of the bill - 9th Order of Business).



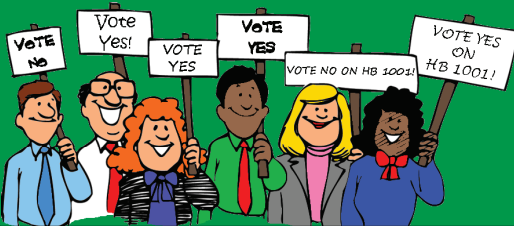
## Committee Assignment & Introduction

The presiding officer refers the bill to the proper committee. In committee, the bill is explained and discussed.



## Public Input

Public hearings are held on every bill.

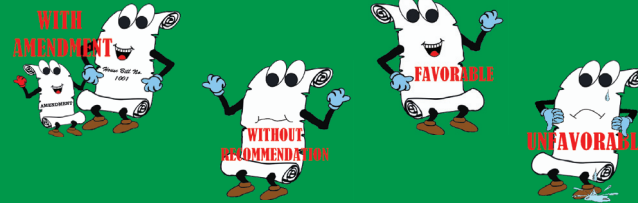


## Committee Recommendation & Report

The full committee may:

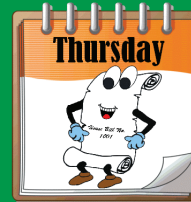
- Report the bill unfavorably with or without amendment;
- Report the bill favorably with or without amendment;
- Report the bill without any recommendation and with or without amendment; or
- Request the bill's rereference to another committee with or without any amendment.

Each committee reports to the House or Senate on the bills that have been referred to the committee.



## Calendar Placement & Consideration of Amendment

All bills, regardless of type of committee report, will be placed on the calendar for final passage. If the committee recommends an amendment, the amendment is placed on the calendar and adopted or rejected before the bill is placed on the calendar.



## Floor Debate



When a bill comes up on the calendar, the bill is read again. This is known as the second reading and is the time when the bill can be finally passed or defeated. Then the bill is debated on the floor of the House or Senate.

## Chamber Consideration

After debate the bill is passed or defeated. If passed, the bill is delivered (messaged) to the other house.



## Second House Consideration

If the second house passes the bill in the same form, the bill is enrolled, signed by presiding officers, and sent to the Governor. If the second house amends and then passes the bill, it is sent back to the first house for concurrence. If the first house does not concur, the presiding officers of both houses appoint a conference committee.



## Conference Committee

The conference committee makes recommendations to both houses and both houses must approve the bill in the same form.



## Enrollment



The bill then is enrolled, signed by the presiding officers, and sent to the Governor. If signed or if forwarded to the Secretary of State without being signed, the bill becomes law (usually August 1, or July 1 for appropriations and revenue measures).

## Veto Override

If vetoed, the bill can still become a law by a 2/3 vote in both houses.



## Voters' Referral



A bill, once passed, may be repealed, whole or in part, through a vote of the electorate—a referendum.

## Initiated Measure

A law also may be proposed and acted upon by the electorate by means of an initiated measure.



# Fun Facts About the North Dakota Legislative Branch

To serve in the North Dakota Legislative Assembly a person must be:

- At least 18 years of age as of the election date.
- A qualified elector of the legislative district.
- A resident of North Dakota for one year before the election.

The first female legislators (Minnie Craig and Nellie Dougherty) were elected in 1922.

Brynhild Haugland was the longest-serving legislator in North Dakota. She served for 52 years.

There are 47 districts each represented by 2 representatives and 1 senator.

## Other Fun Facts About North Dakota

North Dakota is named after the Dakota Sioux Tribe. Dakota is the Sioux word for "friends".

North Dakota was the 39th state admitted into the Union on November 2, 1889.

There are 86,842 miles of roadway.

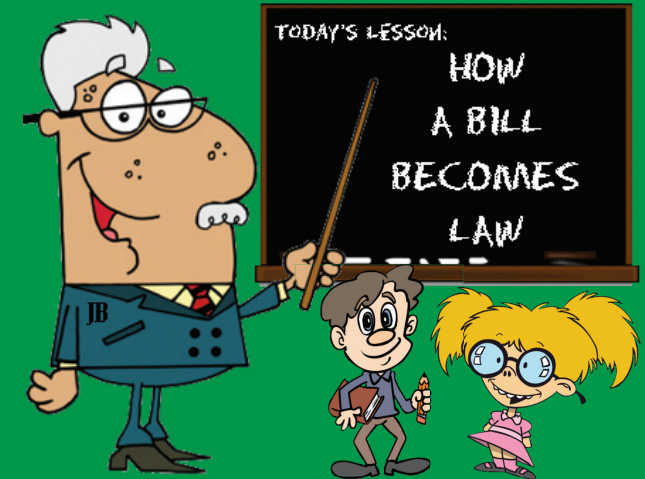
There are 54,373 miles of rivers.

Record low temperature is -60° F (-51.1° C)  
(Recorded in Parshall February 15, 1936)

Record high temperature is 121° F (49° C)  
(Recorded in Steele July 6, 1936)

North Dakota is the 19th largest state by area in the United States (70,762 square miles).

The town of Rugby is considered to be the geographic center of the North American continent.



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## A GUIDE TO LAWMAKING IN NORTH DAKOTA

PROVIDED BY THE  
NORTH DAKOTA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL